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ABSTRACT

This study examines eight reviewing tools which include reviews for young adult (YA) books. The following journals are examined to determine scope, coverage, analysis of content, and reviewing policies: "Booklist," "School Library Journal," "Horn Book Magazine," "Wilson Library Bulletin," "Voice of Youth Advocates," "Book Report," "Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Book Guide," and "ALAN Review." The total population of YA reviews during 1992 was also examined to determine the degree of duplication across the journals; to find in which journal the first review of a given title occurred; and to characterize the reviews by the amount of descriptive and evaluative content in each review. The results show that "Booklist" and "School Library Journal" provide the most comprehensive coverage of young adult literature reviews; however, the YA focus journals also contribute unique and valuable coverage for this field and should be utilized in the selection process. The evaluation sheets used in the study and a list of the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults for 1993 are included in the appendices. (Contains 16 references.) (Author/JLB)

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THE YOUNG ADULT BOOK REVIEW MEDIA: AN EVALUATION

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library and Information Science
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Library Science

by

Linda S. Locker

November, 1993

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THE YOUNG ADULT BOOK REVIEW MEDIA: AN EVALUATION

ABSTRACT

Young adult librarians must determine which review journals best serve their selection needs. This study examines eight reviewing tools which include reviews for young adult books; Booklist, School Library Journal, Horn Book Magazine, Wilson Library Bulletin, Voice of Youth Advocates, Book Report, Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Book Guide, and ALAN Review, to determine scope, coverage, analysis of content, and reviewing policies.

The total population of YA reviews during 1992 were examined. For comparative analysis, data gathered included the total number of fiction and nonfiction titles, format (paperback or hardcover), and frequency and cost. A small purposive sample was used to determine the degree of duplication across the journals, and to determine in which journal the first review of a given title appeared. A nonproportional stratified random sample was utilized to characterize the reviews in each journal by the amount of descriptive and evaluative content in each review. The editorial review policies of each journal were examined to determine who does the reviews, how books are selected for review, and who the primary audience is for the journal.

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INTRODUCTION

Selection of appropriate young adult titles is a challenge for many reasons today. Since the review continues to be the primary tool used for collection development, young adult librarians must determine which review journals best serve their selection needs.

A variety of significant journals review materials for adults and children and there has been a proliferation of analysis and research focused on these areas of book reviewing over the years. However, coverage of young adult (YA) literature, being a relatively new addition to some of these journals, has yet to receive the same coverage or critical examination. Young adult literature, for twelve to eighteen year-olds, is so young in fact, that its first widely accepted textbook did not appear until 1981. (Eaglen 1990)

Reviews for YA books have been problematic in the past. Audrey Eaglen, in her article, "The Young Adult Book Review Media," in Top of the News, commented on the status of YA reviews in 1979.

> The young adult librarian searching for reviews of books suitable for YA's is faced with a real problem: such reviews are spread (thinly) over a number of journals, and are, more often than not, of limited value, giving, as they do, short shrift to books for this sizable segment of the library's clientele. (Eaglen 1979, 143)

Has the review media improved in scope, coverage, and content since 1979? Furthermore, how well are the focus journals such as VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates), Book Report, KLIATT Young Adult Paperback Book Guide, and ALAN Review, aiding collection development?

Other variables influence the importance of the review in YA book selection. Escalating book prices and an increase in subject specific requests by teens must be considered. "AIDS, teen sexuality, sexual abuse, suicide, and school, as well as peer pressure are important subjects in the lives of young adults." (American Library Association 1990, 255) In addition, censorship incidents, particularly aimed at YA literature have increased by more than 40 percent since 1988-89 (American Library Association, Intellectual Freedom Committee 1990, 201), and make informed selection a crucial consideration. The need to appeal to a wide variety of reading tastes, and the preference of teens for paperbacks, demand review data unique to this population. "Paperback purchases continue to dominate the YA collections, with some librarians reporting the use of over 70 percent of their budget for paperbacks." (American Library Association 1990, 255) Furthermore, selection policies, sometimes requiring two or more reviews before purchasing a title, necessitate access to multiple book review journals.

It is important to know how many titles each journal reviews and whether the journals review the same titles, so that the librarian might have access to more than one opinion of a title before selection. The format of the book, (hardback or paperback), what percentage of the reviews focus on nonfiction or fiction titles, and what type of descriptive or evaluative information is included would also be beneficial. For the librarian who must sometimes place an order quickly for topical or seasonal books, it would be useful to know in which journals the first reviews of new titles are likely to appear. Likewise, having access to the editorial reviewing policies would let the librarian know what she/he can expect in the reviews. Who writes the reviews? Does a journal tend to review only books it recommends, or will the selector encounter negative or neutral reviews as well? And more practically, if the librarian is utilizing multiple reviewing sources, how frequent is their publication and what are the subscription costs? Can the library afford to subscribe to a variety of reviewing tools?

Young adult librarians making careful selection on the basis of reviews need to identify the journals which will serve them best. "Because of the changing environment and

the multiplicity of issues in reviewing for children, this area offers considerable scope for reflection and study." (England and Fasick 1987, 31) To survey journals which review YA books, and to establish useful comparisons for the practitioner, a content analysis of the reviewing journals currently available would be beneficial.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A survey of the library literature indicates several content analysis studies of the review media used by school and public librarians for collection development. These studies were the catalyst for this research project.

Research studies of children's book reviews are found often in the literature. The four most frequently studied journals have been School Library Journal, Booklist, Horn Book Magazine, and Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books.

Witucke (1980) and Crow (1986) did studies on book reviews referred to as "children's" or "juvenile". Additionally, in "Reviews of Fiction Books: How They Differ," Kennemer (1984) examined works of fiction for children and adolescents as a whole. Each of these three studies analyzed the content of the reviews to some extent.

Crow (1986) and Kennemer (1984) dealt with the identification of controversial or potentially controversial elements. Crow selected a purposive sample of twenty censored titles and calculated the total number of words the reviewers used to discuss the controversial elements. She found the SLJ reviewed more of the controversial books than Booklist, Horn Book or Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books. SLJ also gave the most thorough discussion of controversial elements, while Horn Book was the least helpful in this regard. In general, all four journals reviewed most of the controversial books favorably.

Kennemer selected journals and reviews randomly, and then developed a checklist to classify elements of reviews as either descriptive, analytical, or sociological. "Sociological items are judgments of the book based on nonliterary considerations, such as potentially controversial aspects of the book or predictions about popularity." (Kennemer 1984, 419) In "Research and Juvenile Reviewing Media", Doll indicates that even though checklists take time and effort to develop, "...research results are enhanced by the technique." (Doll 1990, 151) Kennemer found that reviews do differ from one journal to another in the amount of descriptive and evaluative content. Kennemer's findings

suggest that access to multiple reviews for a given title would be advantageous.

Witucke examined the number of critical themes, defined as evaluative, subjective comments, she found in Booklist, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Horn Book, New York Times Book Review, and SLJ. "The mean number of critical themes per review (four to six) suggests a lack of depth within reviews." (Witucke 1980, 159) Witucke also points out that editorial review policy statements, which would help the selector interpret what he/she is getting, were often not clearly stated and, frequently, not published.

Studies by Crow (1986) and Witucke (1980) also examined the number of books reviewed and the promptness of reviews. Both found SLJ to have the broadest coverage of titles. However, these two studies reported conflicting findings related to the journal that published reviews of new titles most promptly. Crow found the most timely reviews appearing in SLJ, while Witucke found Booklist to be most prompt.

The studies mentioned earlier, focused mainly on children's book reviews. The newer YA focus journals, such as VOYA, Book Report, KLIATT Young Adult Paperback Book Guide, and the ALAN Review have yet to be investigated using the technique of content analysis. Only one study was found

that investigated young adult reviews specifically.

In "Reviews of Young Adult Books in Canadian Reviewing Serials," Altmann, Bertram and Field (1991), examined five Canadian English-language serials: Books in Canada, Canadian Book Review Annual, Canadian Children's Literature, Canadian Materials, and Quill & Quire. The journals analyzed are not generally used in the United States. However, this study includes most of the same variables examined in the research projects mentioned earlier and offers an excellent model for replication.

Altmann, Bertram and Field (1991) examined the total population of young adult book reviews (732) appearing in five Canadian reviewing serials for the years 1987 and 1988. Editorial reviewing policies for each journal were examined and quantitative statistics were gathered for the number of reviews published, the degree of duplication in the review coverage, the publishers represented, and the appearance of first reviews across the five serials.

The qualitative aspects of description and evaluation were also examined in a small purposive sample. The instrument for classification of the descriptive and evaluative elements of reviews of fiction was adapted and abridged from an instrument developed by Kennemer (1984) in

a similar study discussed earlier. In addition, a new checklist to classify nonfiction reviews was designed by Altmann, Bertram, and Field for their project.

Findings in this study by Altmann, Bertram and Field, indicate that the greatest number of reviews (75%) appeared in Canadian Materials. Only 9% (56) of the 644 titles reviewed had multiple reviews, reviews appearing in more than one journal title. Quill & Quire was most prompt in publishing reviews of new books, and also had the highest number of first reviews among its multiple reviews. The analysis of evaluative elements, in a small purposive sample of 33 reviews, found the most evaluative and longest reviews to be in Quill & Quire and Canadian Children's Literature. Reviewer attitudes were found to be positive in 88 percent of the YA reviews. Only two journals published neutral or negative reviews. "Neither examination of the serials nor correspondence with the editors revealed if it was editorial policy for these serials to review only recommended titles." (Altmann, Bertram and Field 1991, 390) More negative or neutral reviews may have been included in the journals, but could have escaped the small sample used for this research. "Analysis of the study sample supports the common observation that most reviews are favourable." (390)

This research project done by Altmann, Bertram and Field, combines both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques of data collection. It analyzes many variables which may help to determine the usefulness of selection tools used by YA librarians. An attempt was made to use the research technique of content analysis to replicate this study and to add to the body of existing knowledge relating to the YA review media. The following journals used widely in the United States by YA librarians were analyzed: Booklist, SLJ, Wilson Library Journal (WLB), Horn Book Magazine, VOYA, Book Report, KLIATT Young Adult Paperback Book Guide, and ALAN Review.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study include those used by Altmann, Bertram and Field (1991), with several additions and modifications identified below.

The eight journals, Booklist, SLJ, VOYA, Horn Book, WLB, Book Report, ALAN Review, and KLIATT were examined:

1) to determine the editorial review policies and formats of each, including who does the reviews, how books are selected for review, who the primary audience is for the

journal, the frequency of publication, and the cost of an annual subscription.

2) to list any unique features of the individual journals relating to the YA reviews, such as inclusion of pictures of book jackets or rating scales for potential popularity, etc. (An addition to the Altmann, Bertram and Field study.)

The population of YA reviews in the eight journals was examined:

3) to determine the total number of reviews of young adult titles that were published in these journals during the year 1992;

4) to determine the total number of YA titles reviewed in each journal during 1992. Subsets include the additional classifications of fiction and nonfiction, as well as the classification of format, either paperback, hardcover, or simultaneous publication in both paperback and hardcover. The latter is an addition to the Altmann, Bertram and Field study.

A small purposive sample was used:

5) to determine the degree of duplication (multiple reviews - reviews of the same title appearing in more than one of the journals) which may exist in the coverage of the YA titles.

6) to determine in which journal the first review of a given title appeared (not a time lag between the date of publication of the title and the date of the review, but where the earliest review appeared.)

A nonproportional stratified random sample of the YA book reviews was utilized:

7) to characterize the reviews of the YA titles in each journal by the amount of analysis presented, the length of the review, and the attitude of the reviewer toward the title.

Publisher representation, included in the Altmann, Bertram and Field study, was not replicated in this research project.

METHODOLOGY

A content analysis of the YA book reviews found in Booklist, SLJ, Horn Book, WLB, Book Report, KLIATT and ALAN Review was conducted to obtain statistical data on the variables identified in the seven objectives listed above.

Identification of Journals

Criteria were established to select the journals from the population of journals which include reviews of young adult books. First, because only general YA book reviews were to be examined, subject specific journals, such as Science Books and Films, were not included. Secondly, because only reviews from 1992 were analyzed, retrospective selection tools, such as Horn Book Guide to Children's and Young Adult Books, which reviews books from the previous publishing season, were not included.

A large number of journals review YA books, making it necessary to limit the number of journals examined to those most likely to be used by the majority of YA librarians. Therefore, one or more of the following criteria had to be met: 1) the journal must have a high circulation of over 10,000 or more subscribers; 2) the journal must include a large number of YA reviews, with over 250 reviews per year; 3) and/or the journal must be a YA focus (age specific) journal for the field.

The rationale for the compilation of this list of journals can be further supported by the following information on "Young Adult Library Services" found in the ALA Yearbook:

> VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) continues to be identified as the most valuable journal in the field, followed by Booklist, School Library Journal, and Journal of Youth Services in Libraries. Wilson Library Bulletin is rising in popularity. Horn Book, Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Reviews, and the ALAN Review are also frequently cited as important review sources. (American Library Association 1990a, 256)

Book Report is a relatively new publication for the field, with it's first issue appearing in 1982. This YA focus journal has a circulation of 11,500, and therefore, also merits analysis in this study.

Information was collected for the selection of these journals by consulting Literary Market Place (1993), Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory (1992), The Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac (1992), and the Standard Periodical Directory (1993). If published statistics were not available, the researcher contacted an editorial staff member from the journal. In one case, direct examination of the journal was necessary, as no printed statistics were available. See Appendix A - Periodical Ranked by

Circulation, and Appendix B - Periodicals Ranked by Number of YA Reviews.

Identification of Young Adult Reviews

What is a young adult review? Because some of the journals analyzed include adult books appropriate for young adults, and some reviews of children's books actually include the age range considered young adult, definition is needed. Only the reviewing section that a YA librarian would naturally scan in the selection process was utilized. A review was included if: 1) the book was identified in the review as being young adult: 2) the recommended age or grade level fell within the young adult range - ages 12 to 18 or grades 7 through 12; 3) the book was included in the "Adult Books for YA's" section of the journal.

The Subject and Sample

The total population of eight journals meeting the criteria for inclusion was identified along with the procedures for the selection of those journals. The total population of journals was utilized to gather data on the editorial reviewing policies (objective 1). Unique features relating to the reviews were ascertained by direct

examination of each journal (objective 2).

The population of YA book reviews found in these journals was estimated to range from 5,000 to 7,000, using the statistics from Appendix A. The actual population for 1992 was 7,301. This population was used to gather information for objectives 3 and 4, the number of reviews and the number of titles reviewed. Each issue of each journal for 1992 was examined.

The Altmann, Bertram and Field study examined the total population of YA reviews in five Canadian serials for a two year period. However, due to the large number of YA reviews (over 7,000), covered in the journals selected for this project, it was necessary to choose a purposive sample for objectives 5 and 6: determining the degree of duplication (reviews of the same title appearing in more than one journal), and determining where the first review of a given title appeared. To examine these variables for comparison across journals, it was conducive to this study to select reviews which had a high probability of being published in more than one journal. For this reason, a small purposive sample was used. The 97 YA fiction and nonfiction titles from ALA's "Best Books for Young Adults -1993" list was used. (See Appendix C) The review for each title was checked in

Book Review Index - 1992 Cumulation to determine the number of multiple reviews and the journal which published the review first. Book Review Index indexes all the journals selected for this study with the exception of ALAN Review and KLIATT. These two journals were analyzed directly to collect data for objectives 5 and 6.

A nonproportional stratified random sample was used to examine the last variable for classification of descriptive and evaluative information. Because the main purpose of this study is to make comparisons among the journals, an equal number of reviews (5) were randomly selected from each journal for the year 1992.

DATA COLLECTION

Objectives 1 & 2 - Editorial review policies, frequency of publication, and subscription cost was recorded, from direct examination of the journal when possible. The editorial staff of the journals was consulted when editorial guidelines were not available in the journals themselves. Any unique features of a journal were determined by direct examination of the journals.

Objectives 3 & 4 - To determine the number of reviews, the number of titles reviewed in each journal during 1992, and to further classify those reviews by type (fiction or nonfiction) and format (paperback, hardcover, or both), a simple data collection form was developed for tabulating the numbers. Based on the data collected, frequency distributions were used to rank the journals on these variables.

Objectives 5 & 6 - To determine whether multiple reviews were available and in which journals that were most likely to appear, reviews for the 97 titles from ALA's "Best Books for Young Adults - 1993" list was used. The titles were traced in Book Review Index for six of the journals. The additional information for ALAN Review and KLIATT was obtained by checking the YA titles individually in these journals.

Objective 7 - For this last objective, a nonproportional stratified random sample of 5 reviews from each journal was examined to analyze the descriptive and evaluative elements in the YA reviews. Two instruments, one for fiction and one for nonfiction reviews, were developed by Altmann, Bertram and Field (1991), in their Canadian study. These "Classification of Book Reviews" checklists for fiction and nonfiction were used, with permission, for this study.

(See Appendix D - Classification of Book Reviews: Fiction and Appendix E - Classification of Book Reviews: Nonfiction)

The percent of descriptive and evaluative information in each of the five reviews from the eight journals was analyzed. Descriptive statements give information about plot, character, theme, the physical characteristics of the book, etc. Evaluative information includes analytical and sociological statements. Analytical reviewer comments discuss literary evaluation, such as writing style, the relation of the title to other books by the author mentioned, and/or to other books in the same genre, and the potential readership of the title. Predictions of popularity and potentially controversial elements would also be examples of sociological statements.

The attitude of the reviewer will be measured using a Likert scale found on the "Classification of Book Reviews" checklists. This continuum, ranging from positive to negative, was used to determine whether the reviewer's attitude toward the title was favorable, neutral, or unfavorable. A review which was analyzed during this study is included for illustrative purposes in Appendix F: Example of Classification Checklist Use.

This content analysis of the YA review media was designed to, as much as possible, objectively, and systematically gather quantitative information from primary sources. The statistics collected in this study were organized for interpretation using frequency distribution tables. The data is analyzed and organized so that a meaningful comparison can be made among the journals examined in this study of the young adult book review media.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Editorial Reviewing Policies and Unique Features

Information about the reviewing policies of each of these journals was collected by direct examination of the journal, through phone contact with the editors when information was not published. Published reviewing policies were only available in Booklist and School Library Journal.

ALAN REVIEW

ALAN Review is published by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, under the auspices of the National Council of Teachers of English. The editors of ALAN Review receive

books from publishers and select those to be sent to the book reviewers. Reviewers include college professors of English, education, information science, reading, and language arts, as well as junior high school and secondary teachers of English and reading. Reviewers may choose to turn down titles which they feel do not merit review space. ALAN Review does not print completely negative reviews. However, reviews of titles written by well-known YA authors are included even if the title is not recommended, with reviewers pointing out the flaws in the book. Reviewers are directed to evaluate the literary quality and potential use of the book, and to summarize the plot only where it will advance the clarity of the review. Reviews must be a maximum of 150 words, and are selected for readers in grades 6-12. The primary audience of ALAN Review is secondary teachers of English.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Each issue contains "Clip and File" (3" x 5") reviews on sturdy paper stock of approximately thirty-two new hardbacks or paperbacks. The subjects and/or genres of books reviewed are clearly indicated on each card.

VOYA

The two editors of VOYA select books for review sent by publishers which are appropriate for young adults. Reviewers include librarians, teachers, and college professors, all of whom are volunteers. Each reviewer completes a "Review Interest Profile" which the editors use to match the content of a book with the reviewer. VOYA does not review every new title in a series, only those with the most potential interest for school assignments are reviewed. All first novels of authors are reviewed. Each book is discussed in terms of plot, character development, and theme. In many cases comparisons are made with other books by the same author, or with books about the same subject. When a potentially controversial item is discussed, the reviewer is requested to include direct quotations from the book. The editors actively solicit books from Christian publishing houses. VOYA does not discriminate between hardcover or paperback formats in selection of titles for review. The primary audience of VOYA is teachers and librarians who work with teenagers.

UNIQUE FEATURES

VOYA uses an evaluation code to indicate literary quality and potential young adult popularity. A book receiving a 5Q rating for quality would be interpreted as "Hard to imagine

it being better written." While a SP rating for popularity would indicate that "Every young adult was dying to read it yesterday." Grade level interest, middle school, junior high, or senior high, is also indicated.

THE BOOK REPORT

The editors of The Book Report automatically receive books from the publishers. The editors also actively request specific titles found in catalogs. Because adult books are not sent automatically, editors scan reviews in Booklist and Publishers Weekly to select adult books appropriate for young adults to include in The Book Report. Of the approximately 200 volunteer reviewers, all were school librarians at one time, although some may now be college or university professors or retired. Bylines include the reviewer's present work position. Reviews are limited to 300 words or less and both description and evaluation should be included. Comments on the book jackets and comparisons to other books on the topic as well as suggestions for classroom or library use are invited. Fiction reviews should summarize the plot and tell the ending. The setting, time period, genre, and main character's age along with comments on potential popularity to young adults are also requested. The Book

Report policy is to fully describe the book in order for school librarians to make informed selection judgments with no surprises. Potentially controversial content is not to be ignored, therefore, material which may warrant pre-examination should be noted. Purchase recommendations range from highly recommended, recommended, optional purchase, to not recommended. The Book Report is published for junior and senior high school librarians.

UNIQUE FEATURES

In addition to grade-level recommendations, reviewers clearly indicate their level of enthusiasm for the book on a scale from Highly Recommended - should be included in all collections; Recommended - should be seriously considered for purchase; Optional Purchase - purchase only if useful to the collection or if funds are available; to Not Recommended. Photographs of book jackets accompany many reviews. Bibliographic information for books reviewed include the format of the book; hardcover (hc.), paperback (pbk.), or library binding (lib. bdg.). Books are reviewed by subject. In addition, some books are reviewed in groups facilitating comparisons for selection.

WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN (WLB)

Some books are sent directly to WLB and screened by the editor before being sent to the reviewers. The reviewers also receive some books directly. Books included in "The Young Adult Perplex" column are reviewed by a single editor. Both positive and negative reviews are included.
WLB attempts to include titles that are not given broad coverage in other media. WLB is published for children's, YA and adult librarians.

UNIQUE FEATURES

"The Young Adult Perplex" column is a regular feature, while other columns of interest to YA librarians include "Science Fiction Universe", and "Murder in Print", which indicate titles appropriate for teens. Some reviews of books appropriate to YAs can also be found in the "Middle Books" column. Reviews are in narrative form with imprint information appearing at the end of each section in a highlighted box. Usually a photograph of one of the books reviewed appears in the review section.

KLIATT YOUNG ADULT PAPERBACK BOOK GUIDE

KLIATT attempts to review all new paperbacks. The editors request paperback titles from the publishers and select those

that will be sent on to reviewers. Most of the approximately 100 volunteer reviewers are presently working with YAs. Some are librarians, and some are classroom teachers. The signed reviews include the reviewer's present position. The editor matches books to reviewers using a reviewer profile. Reviewers evaluate the books and make the last cut. Only recommended titles are included. KLIATT is published for librarians and classroom teachers serving young adults.

UNIQUE FEATURES

KLIATT includes interest levels for each review; Junior High (J), Senior High (S), and advanced students and adults (A). An asterisk denotes a book of exceptional quality. Each issue has a title index and an annual cumulative index appears in the November issue. Reviews are arranged in the following categories: fiction, literature and language arts, biography and personal narrative, education and guidance, social studies, history and geography, science, the arts and recreation. The paperback editions include originals, reprints, and reissues. KLIATT also indicates the height of the paperbacks in centimeters in the imprint.

HORN BOOK MAGAZINE

The editors evaluate books sent to them by publishers and pass them along to reviewers who may reject some books from inclusion in the Horn Book Magazine reviews. There are approximately nine reviewers, the majority of whom are librarians, with some active in the field and some retired. Some are guest reviewers, paid per review, while some are Horn Book staff members. Only recommended titles in hardcover format are included. Controversial topics in the books may be given special consideration, but are not to be emphasized. Children's librarians, public school teachers, and those who love children's literature make up the primary audience for Horn Book Magazine.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Reviews for teens can be found in the "For Older Readers -- ages 12 through Young Adult" section of each issue. A "Best Books" list is published each year.

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (SLJ)

An annual policy statement is published in the January issue. SLJ attempts to review all new children's and YA single-title general trade books from established publishers as well as from small or regional presses. Books are reviewed as close

to their dates of publication as page space permits. Reviewers include librarians working with children and young adults in schools or public libraries, library school educators, teachers of children's literature and outside subject specialists, particularly in the sciences. All titles are assigned by the Book Review Editor. The specific review policy for young adult titles is also published in SLJ annually. Adult works of fiction and nonfiction, both popular and scholarly, that have appeal and interest for YA's are included. Negative reviews are included only when a book has received much publicity or is by an author popular with YAs but is not recommended. SLJ does not comment on the inclusion of sex, violence, or profanity unless its usage is inappropriate for the content or style of the work. SLJ is directed to school and public librarians serving children and young adults.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Books for young adults can be found primarily in the "Junior High Up", and "Adult Books for Young Adults" review sections. However, the "Grades 3-6" section recommends titles for students up through grade 9. In addition, the "At a Glance" section reviews books in familiar series, new editions of YA

stand-bys, and ephemeral paperbacks with broad YA appeal. Starred reviews denote titles that are outstanding in relation to others on the same subject or in the same genre. Each issue of SLJ includes an Author/Title index. A cumulative index appears in the December 1992 issue.

BOOKLIST

The Booklist Selection Policy is published in the September 1, 1988, issue. All materials reviewed are recommended for purchase with qualifying statements on weaknesses and limitations included when needed. Booklist reviewers include two staff editors and paid free lance reviewers. Books in the Books for Young Adults section are selected by the young adult editorial staff as those particularly suited to the interests and needs of adolescents ages 14-18. "Books with currently controversial elements (e.g., violence, sex, drugs) or problem areas (e.g., astrology and the occult) are judged for the integrity of their overall treatment--honest, nonsensationalized presentations on different sides of all subjects being considered for recommendation." (BOOKLIST Selection Policy 1988, 2) Booklist is directed to librarians in small and medium-sized public and school libraries.

UNIQUE FEATURES

Young adult book reviews can be found in the "Adult Books for Young Adults", "Books for Older Readers", and "Books for Middle Readers" sections. In addition, YA at the end of an imprint in the Adult Books section indicates a book recommended in the "Books for Young Adults" section, and thus two reviews will be available for those titles. A star beside a title indicates a work judged by the reviewer to be outstanding in its genre. Grade levels are indicated for each book reviewed. "Focus" reviews which are quite long, provide opportunities for exploring the literary and artistic merits of a particular book in greater depth. An "Editors Choice" list highlights outstanding books each year. Booklist publishes an index in each issue as well as a semi-annual cumulative index.

Interpretation of Editorial Reviewing Policies and Unique Features

Editorial reviewing policies are important to help the selector determine what they can expect in the reviews. Are all the titles recommended, or can the selector expect to find negative reviews? Who are the reviewers? Are they

practicing librarians, teachers, professors, or editors? Are they presently working with young adults? Who is the target audience for the journal? Is the journal primarily for librarians or is it also aimed at the classroom teacher? Data from the editorial review policies is summarized in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1 indicates that six of the journals publish reviews written by librarians. Most YA librarians value opinions of their colleagues in the field. Four journals include teachers and four journals include professors as reviewers. Only three journals utilize their editors for reviewing purposes, with WLB and Booklist relying entirely on a few editors for critiques of YA titles. This is in great contrast to the variety and number of opinions a selector

TABLE 1
REVIEWERS OF YA BOOKS BY JOURNAL

JOURNAL	LIBRARIANS	TEACHERS	PROFESSORS	EDITORS
ALAN REVIEW	X	X	X	
VOYA	X	X	X	
BOOK REPORT	X		X	
WLB				X
KLIATT	X	X		
HORN BOOK	X			X
SLJ	X	X	X	
BOOKLIST				X

of YA books will find in the reviews published in ALAN Review, VOYA, Book Report, KLIATT, and SLJ, all of which employ practicing or former librarians as reviewers.

Table 2 lists the journals which only include recommended YA titles, as well as those journals in which the YA librarian might expect both positive and negative reviews.

TABLE 2
TYPE OF REVIEW BY JOURNAL

RECOMMENDED TITLES ONLY	BOTH POSITIVE & NEGATIVE REVIEWS
ALAN REVIEW	VOYA
KLIATT	BOOK REPORT
BOOKLIST	WLB
HORN BOOK	SLJ

If a selector has limited time for collection development, he/she may choose to read only recommended reviews, and might subscribe to ALAN Review, KLIATT, Booklist, or Horn Book for such critiques. On the other hand, some librarians like to have access to a variety of reviews with varying opinions before making purchasing decisions. VOYA, Book Report, WLB, and SLJ provide reviews which alert the selector to both recommended purchases and books which are not recommended.

The target audience for journals may also help the YA librarian make subscription choices. Table 3 indicates that only one journal, ALAN Review, is aimed primarily at teachers. VOYA, KLIATT, and Horn Book also mention teachers as a primary audience. All other journals are written for the reviewing needs of librarians.

TABLE 3
AUDIENCE OF JOURNALS

JOURNAL	LIBRARIANS	TEACHERS
ALAN REVIEW		X
VOYA	X	X
BOOK REPORT	X	
WLB	X	
KLIATT	X	X
HORN BOOK	X	X
BOOKLIST	X	
SLJ	X	

In summary, it would be beneficial to selectors, if journals would provide space once a year, as SLJ does, to print their editorial reviewing policies. Booklist, being the only other journal to provide reviewing information, has still not published its policies for five years.

Also, selectors should know who the reviewers are. They may be subscribing to journals which provide only the opinion of one or two reviewers in an entire year.

After examining the editorial reviewing policies and unique features of these eight journals, it is clear that YA librarians have a variety of useful tools to help them make discerning choices for their young adult patrons.

Frequency of Publication and Subscription Cost

Comparative data on frequency of publication and subscription costs are important to the YA librarian who must consider time limitations for collection development as well as budget constraints for the purchase of reviewing journals. After examining editorial reviewing policies and unique features, the selector who wishes to subscribe to more than one reviewing tool, must consider combined subscription costs and the amount of YA review coverage he/she will receive during the year from different journals. Here again, the YA book review media offers a variety of choices for collection development needs.

Table 4 indicates a wide range of frequency of publication and cost. The most expensive journal is

TABLE 4
JOURNAL FREQUENCY AND COST

JOURNAL	FREQUENCY	COST
School Library Journal	Monthly	$63.00 year
Booklist	Semi-Monthly Except monthly June, July, August	$60.00 year
Wilson Library Bulletin	Monthly Except July & August	$50.00 year
Book Report	Bi-monthly during school year (5 issues/year)	$39.00 year
Horn Book Magazine	Bi-monthly	$38.00 year
KLIATT YA Paperback Guide	6 issues/year	$36.00 year
VOYA	Bi-monthly	$32.50 year
ALAN Review	3 issues/year Winter, Spring, Fall	$15.00 year

SLJ ($63.00) for 12 issues, although for $3.00 less, a YA librarian can receive 22 issues of Booklist a year. WLB is the third most expensive journal costing $50.00 annually for 10 issues. The least expensive journal is ALAN Review which publishes just three issues a year for $15.00.

Book Report, Horn Book, KLIATT and VOYA fall in a price range from $32.50 to $39.00 and publish from 5-6 issues a year. Due to the comparative value of cost and frequency, the scope, coverage, currency and amount of evaluative information included in the reviews in these four journals will play an important role in determining subscription decisions.

Number of Reviews

This study identified 7,301 young adult reviews of 6,405 young adult titles in the eight reviewing journals for the year 1992. Table 5 shows the rank order of the journals by the total number of YA reviews and the total percentages of reviews.

Of the total of 7,301 reviews, 4,332 (59%) reviewed nonfiction titles and 2,956 (41%) reviewed fiction titles. The YA librarian planning to subscribe to at least one comprehensive reviewing journal, could choose a title near the top of this list. It is important to remember that KLIATT only reviews paperback titles.

Booklist has 2,724 (37%) of the total number of reviews. Booklist is the only journal of the eight studied that includes more than one review per title in an issue. These

multiple reviews relate to Booklist's policy of labeling adult reviews with "YA" when the book is also appropriate for young adults. These labeled reviews then receive an additional review in the "Adult Books for Young Adults" column. During 1992, 896 titles reviewed in Booklist received two reviews, greatly increasing the number of total reviews in Booklist compared to the other journals. It is important to note that Booklist is published more frequently than the other journals, and even if the duplicate reviews are removed, Booklist still includes the greatest number of young adult reviews.

TABLE 5
NUMBER OF YA REVIEWS BY JOURNAL

JOURNAL	FICTION	NONFICTION	TOTAL	PERCENT OF TOTAL
BOOKLIST	1038	1686	2724	37%
SLJ	461	932	1393	19%
KLIATT	492	771	1263	17%
VOYA	530	446	976	13%
BOOK REPORT	186	383	569	8%
HORN BOOK	93	56	149	2%
WLB	86	45	131	2%
ALAN REVIEW	83	13	96	1%
TOTALS:	2969	4332	7301	99%
% OF TOTALS:	41%	59%	100%	

Number of Titles Reviewed

Table 6 shows the total number of titles reviewed in the eight journals. All future tables will deal only with the total number of titles reviewed rather than total number of reviews.

TABLE 6
NUMBER OF YA TITLES REVIEWED BY JOURNAL

JOURNAL	NONFICTION	FICTION	TOTALS:	PERCENT OF TOTAL
BOOKLIST	1125	703	1828	29%
SLJ	932	461	1393	22%
KLIATT	771	492	1263	20%
VOYA	446	530	976	15%
BOOK REPORT	383	186	569	9%
WLB	56	93	149	2%
HORN BOOK	45	86	131	2%
ALAN REVIEW	13	83	96	1%
TOTALS:	3771	2634	6405	100%
% OF TOTALS	59%	41%	100%	

Booklist, SLJ, and KLIATT combined, contributed 71% of the total number of YA reviews examined in this study, with the five remaining journals contributing only 29% of the total reviews. Due to the fact that KLIATT only reviews YA paperbacks, the data in Table 6 would indicate that Booklist and SLJ remain the two most comprehensive sources for young adult collection development, if both hardcover and paperback formats are desired.

The data in Table 6 also indicate the number of fiction and nonfiction book reviews published in each YA journal. Booklist, SLJ, and KLIATT review the highest number of nonfiction titles. A YA librarian looking for nonfiction book reviews would find the greatest number in these three journals. On the other hand, if one is interested in fiction reviews, the greatest number would be found in Booklist and VOYA, followed closely by KLIATT and SLJ.

Within each journal, SLJ and Book Report devote the highest proportion of their reviews to nonfiction books (67% of their total reviews). Booklist and KLIATT follow closely with nonfiction reviews in each comprising 61% of their total reviews. The four remaining journals, VOYA, WLB, Horn Book, and ALAN Review, devote a greater proportion of their reviews to fiction titles.

ALAN Review had the highest proportion of fiction reviews with 86% of its 96 reviews being for works of fiction, and would be a valuable source for collection development in that area.

Format of Books Reviewed

The format of books reviewed in Table 7 includes paperback (PB), hardcover (HC), and simultaneous publication in hardcover and paperback (BOTH).

Due to the fact, that adolescents tend to prefer paperbacks to hardcovers, format will be significant to the YA librarian. This table also indicates the variety of formats which publishers are making available. Only a very small percentage (4%) of the YA titles examined in this study were offered in both hardcover and paperback. Sixty-five percent of the books reviewed were in hardcover and 32% were in paperback format.

TABLE 7
FORMAT OF YA NONFICTION TITLES REVIEWED

JOURNAL	PB	HC	BOTH	TOTAL	PERCENT OF TOTAL
BOOKLIST	183	860	82	1125	30%
SLJ	79	776	77	932	25%
KLIATT	771	0	0	771	20%
VOYA	86	417	29	446	12%
BOOK REPORT	21	355	7	383	10%
WLB	8	37	9	56	1.4%
HORN BOOK	0	51	0	51	1.3%
ALAN REVIEW	1	12	0	13	.3%
TOTAL:	1149	2510	204	3771	100%
% OF TOTAL	30%	65%	5%	100%	

FORMAT OF YA FICTION TITLES REVIEWED

JOURNAL	PB	HC	BOTH	TOTAL	PERCENT OF TOTAL
BOOKLIST	69	576	58	703	27.0%
VOYA	239	285	6	530	20.0%
KLIATT	492	0	0	492	19.0%
SLJ	54	399	8	461	17.5%
BOOK REPORT	5	181	0	186	7.0%
WLB	18	75	0	93	3.5%
HORN BOOK	0	86	0	86	3.0%
ALAN REVIEW	7	76	0	83	3.0%
TOTAL:	884	1678	72	2634	100.0%
% OF TOTAL	34	63	3	100	

Overall, Table 7 shows that hardcover books were reviewed most often in these eight journals. Of the nonfiction titles reviewed, 66% were hardcover and of the fiction books, 63% were in hardcover format.

Paperbacks comprise about one-third of the total reviews. Of the total nonfiction reviews, 30% were in paperback and of the total fiction reviews, 34% were in paperback format.

KLIATT only reviews paperbacks, with Table 7 showing 100% of KLIATT's reviews in that format. KLIATT is a good source for librarians who are developing a paperback collection, or for those who are looking to add a greater number of titles for less cost.

Table 7 also supports the fact that Horn Book reviews exclusively hardcover books, and that ALAN Review and WLB review predominantly books in hardcover format. The YA librarian who purchases chiefly hardcover books, would find these three sources helpful. On the other hand, VOYA's reviewing policy does not discriminate between formats. As a result, 45% of VOYA's fiction reviews are in paperback, and 54% are in hardcover, (1% were published in both formats), making VOYA a good review source when either format is acceptable to the selector.

First Reviews By Journal

To determine where the first review for a new title might appear in these eight journals, a small purposive sample of YA titles was used. The ninety-seven young adult fiction and nonfiction titles from ALA's "Best Books for Young Adults 1993" were traced in Book Review Index - 1992 Cumulation.

Only 77 of the 97 titles were reviewed by one or more of the eight journals in this study. In six instances, first reviews appeared simultaneously in Booklist and SLJ, and in two other instances, first reviews appeared in three journals simultaneously and four journals simultaneously. Thus adding thirteen additional first reviews to the seventy-seven total titles, equaling 90 instances of first reviews. The findings are represented in rank order in Table 8.

TALBE 8 - FIRST REVIEWS BY JOURNAL

JOURNAL	NUMBER OF FIRST REVIEWS	% OF 1ST REVIEWS
Booklist	60	67%
SLJ	23	26%
VOYA	4	4%
KLIATT	1	1%
Horn Book	1	1%
ALAN Review	1	1%
Book Report	0	0%
WLB	0	0%
	90	100%

As Table 8 shows, the earliest or first reviews, appeared almost exclusively in Booklist and SLJ. Both journals attempt to review new books as early as possible, with Booklist often including reviews before the books are actually published. If currency is consequential, either of these journals would be good choices for selection.

Due to the high instance and almost exclusive appearance of first reviews in Booklist and SLJ, the other six journals were ranked, disregarding those reviews in Booklist and SLJ.

TABLE 9

EARLIEST REVIEWS IN JOURNALS OTHER THAN BOOKLIST & SLJ

JOURNAL	EARLIEST REVIEW	% OF EARLIEST REVIEWS
VOYA	21	39%
Horn Book	19	35%
Book Report	5	9%
KLIATT	4	7%
ALAN Review	3	5%
WLB	3	5%
	54	100%

It must be remembered for Table 9, that these figures represent only 6% of the first reviews examined in Table 8 above. The findings for Booklist and SLJ were disregarded to determine which of the remaining journals were most current in their reviewing. If a YA librarian subscribes to Booklist or SLJ, and wishes to subscribe to more than one journal,

it would be helpful to know which of the remaining reviewing sources would give the most up-to-date coverage. Table 9 shows that VOYA and Horn Book, are the next most current reviewers of YA books. Furthermore, KLIATT, ALAN Review and WLB, should only be utilized for selection, if currency is not an important consideration.

Degree of Duplication

To determine what degree of duplication exists in the coverage of YA titles in these eight journals, a purposive sample of 97 fiction titles was used. The "Best Books for Young Adults - 1993" list was used because these YA titles would likely appear in the YA review media selected for this study. Each title was searched in Book Review Index - 1992 Cumulation to determine which journals published a review of each title. Some titles were either not reviewed in any of the journals during 1992, or received only a single review. Those titles were eliminated and only titles receiving more than one review were included. Table 10 indicates the amount of overlap for these YA titles and the total number of multiple reviews appearing in each journal.

TABLE 10
MULTIPLE REVIEWS

YA TITLE	BKL	SLJ	VOYA	BKREP	HRNBK	ALAN	WLB	KLIATT
1	X	X	X		X			
2	X	X	X	X				
3	X	X	X	X		X		
4	X	X						
5	X	X			X	X		
6	X	X	X	X				
7	X	X	X	X				
8		X	X	X				
9	X	X	X	X				
10	X	X						
11	X		X	X			X	
12	X	X	X		X	X		
13	X	X						
14	X	X			X			
15	X	X			X			
16	X	X		X				
17	X	X	X					
18	X							X
19	X	X	X	X		X		
20	X	X	X	X				
21	X	X			X			
22	X							X
23	X	X	X	X	X			
24	X	X		X	X			
25	X	X						X
26		X	X					
27	X	X		X		X		
28	X	X						
29	X	X			X			
30	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
31	X	X	X	X				

TABLE 10 (CON'T)
MULTIPLE REVIEWS

YA TITLE	BKL	SLJ	VOYA	BKREP	HRNBK	ALAN	WLB	KLIATT
32	X	X	X		X			X
33	X	X	X	X	X			
34	X	X	X					
35	X	X		X	X	X	X	
36	X	X						
37	X	X					X	
38	X		X					
39	X	X			X			
40	X	X	X	X	X		X	
41	X	X	X			X		
42	X	X						
43	X	X	X	X				
44	X	X	X					
45	X	X	X		X			
46			X	X		X	X	
47	X	X						
48	X	X	X	X	X			
49		X	X	X	X			
50	X	X						
51	X		X	X		X	X	
52	X	X		X	X			
53	X	X	X	X	X			
54	X				X			
55	X	X	X		X	X		
56	X	X			X			
57	X	X	X	X	X			
58	X		X	X		X	X	
TOTALS:	54	50	33	27	23	12	8	4

Table 10 shows a great deal of overlap in titles reviewed in Booklist and SLJ. One looking for reviews of award-winning YA titles would be very likely to locate them in these two journals in 1992, and assuming 1992 is indicative of the inclusion patterns of Booklist and SLJ, the YA librarian could feel confident that most titles of this stature would not be missed if they subscribed to one of these major reviewing tools.

VOYA, Book Report, Horn Book, and ALAN Review show moderate duplication of titles. Because their reviews are not as current as those in Booklist and SLJ, later issues may have included reviews for more of the books from the ALA Best Books list, but they were not published during 1992. ALAN Review, WLB, and KLIATT reviewed a very small portion of the award-winning titles during 1992. These last three journals were ranked very low on currency on the table for first reviews, and none of them attempt to publish reviews as quickly as Booklist or SLJ. Furthermore, WLB's editorial policy indicates that WLB attempts to review titles which do not have broad coverage in the review media. In addition, KLIATT can only review titles when they become available in paperback format. Consequently, the reviews in WLB, KLIATT, and ALAN Review will not be as current, nor will there be a

great deal of overlap with the other reviewing journals during a given year.

Classification of Reviews

The classification of reviews determined to what extent the reviews were descriptive, reporting mostly factual information; analytical, presenting literary analysis; and to what extent they dealt with sociological issues, such as predictions of popularity, and comments on controversial elements in the books. A nonproportional stratified random sample of five reviews from each journal was examined. Using the "Classification of Book Reviews" checklists for fiction and nonfiction, each sentence was characterized as being either descriptive, analytical, or sociological in nature. The total number of sentences in each category was then computed and the distribution was calculated and represented in percentages as shown in Table 11.

According to Table 11, 45% to 66% of the review statements were descriptive. This information tells the reader what the book is about, including character descriptions, plot, setting, general theme, and some aspects of the author's story telling methods, such as sentence structure and figurative speech. The age or grade levels of

the intended audience is also included in this category. This study indicates that an average of 50% of each review is dedicated to descriptive information.

TABLE 11
CLASSIFICATION OF REVIEW STATEMENTS BY PERCENTAGES AND TOTAL SENTENCES

JOURNAL	DESCRIPTIVE	ANALYTICAL	SOCIOLOGICAL
		EVALUATIVE	EVALUATIVE
BOOKLIST	57%	36%	7%
ALAN REVIEW	66%	23%	11%
VOYA	60%	20%	20%
WLB	45%	49%	6%
SLJ	50%	44%	6%
KLIATT	54%	37%	9%
HORN BOOK	63%	33%	4%
BOOK REPORT	60%	33%	7%

JOURNAL	DESCRIPTIVE	ANALYTICAL	SOCIOLOGICAL	TOTALS:
(BY SENTENCES)		EVALUATIVE	EVALUATIVE	
BOOKLIST	48	30	6	84
ALAN REVIEW	29	10	5	44
VOYA	50	17	17	84
WLB	29	31	4	64
SLJ	24	21	3	48
KLIATT	30	21	5	56
HORN BOOK	45	23	3	71
BOOK REPORT	40	22	5	67

However, when evaluative statements, which include analytical and sociological information, were examined, the statistics reveal a wider range of differences between the journals. Table 11 shows that WLB and SLJ included the highest percentages of analytical statements, while VOYA included the least. Analytical information is of particular help in the selection of YA titles and requires the reviewer to make critical statements about the work. Such things as strengths, weaknesses, and growth of characters; the effectiveness of the setting; the author's purpose in writing the story; and the relation of the title to other books by the same author or in the same genre is valuable information for the selector. Analytical information for nonfiction titles includes statements about the suitability of the illustrations and the suitability of the presentation for the intended audience.

The young adult librarian seeking analytical statements in the book review media, would find the most analytical comments in WLB, SLJ, KLIATT and Booklist. If sociological comments are important, VOYA would be a good choice, followed closely by ALAN Review.

Due to the nature of today's young adult literature and the potential for inclusion of controversial material,

sociological statements can be extremely beneficial in book selection. It is important to note by examining the Classification of Book Reviews checklists, that fewer sociological statements can be made in this respect. Accordingly, Table 11 shows the lowest percentages in this category.

According to Table 11, VOYA provides a high level of sociological information in its reviews. This can be attributed to VOYA's evaluation code, discussed in the unique features section of this study, which indicates potential teen interest in each book reviewed. Altmann, Bertram, and Field indicated, in their study of Canadian serials, the usefulness of sociological statements. "Of particular importance to librarians is a clear statement of the title's appeal to young adult readers." (Altmann, Bertram and Field 1991, 389) VOYA includes this pertinent information in each review.

Horn Book also included sociological comments, but represents the lowest percentage of such statements, of the eight journals. This also can be supported by the fact that Horn Book reviewers generally do not comment on controversial information, nor do they predict the popularity of YA titles.

Length of Reviews

Altmann, Bertram and Field's Canadian study found that..."the length of a review is, to some extent, an indicator of its usefulness in selection." Altmann, Bertram, and Field found that the serials with the most evaluative reviews, had the longest reviews. However, this study did not support those findings.

Five reviews were randomly sampled in each journal. The length of each review was determined by calculating the number of words in each review. All words were included, with hyphenated words counting as one word. Investigation of the reviewing policies only found two journals which indicated a suggested word length. Reviewers for ALAN Review are limited to a maximum of 150 words, and The Book Report reviewers cannot exceed 300 words. If other journals included suggested word length in their reviewer guidelines, that information was not made available to this researcher.

Table 12 shows that there was a broad range in the length of reviews in this small sample. For instance, the reviews in Booklist ranged from 37 to 902 words. This was due to the fact that the random sample in Booklist included one Focus Review which was 902 words in length. Focus Reviews explore the literary and artistic elements of a

particular book in great depth. In contrast, the random sample also included one of the briefest reviews (37 words), which was a second review of a YA title first reviewed in the Adult Book section.

TABLE 12
LENGTH OF REVIEWS

JOURNAL	AVERAGE WORDS PER REVIEW	RANGE OF WORDS PER REVIEW
VOYA	305.8	178-476
BOOKLIST	296.8	37-902
WLB	247.2	195-378
HORNBOOK	218	127-358
KLIATT	207.4	177-263
BOOK REPORT	193.4	120-243
ALAN REVIEW	145.2	129-160
SLJ	115	90-166

The longest reviews were found in VOYA, Booklist, WLB, and Horn Book. The shortest reviews were found in SLJ. As indicated in the Classification of Reviews section, the journals which provided the most evaluative information were WLB, SLJ, KLIATT, and Booklist. Thus, this study does not indicate a relationship between length of review and the amount of evaluative information.

Reviewer Attitude

Reviewer's attitude toward the title reviewed was recorded using a Likert scale with a range from positive to negative. Analysis of this sample supports the findings in the Altmann study which observes that most reviews are favorable. It should also be remembered that some journals only review recommended titles and this small sample of five reviews per journal will only offer a small degree of variance on the favorable side of the scale. Table 13 indicates the range of reviewer attitudes found in this sample of reviews.

TABLE 13
REVIEWER ATTITUDE TOWARD TITLE BY JOURNAL

JOURNAL	VERY POSITIVE	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE	NEGATIVE
BOOK REPORT	4	1			
BOOKLIST	3	2			
ALAN REVIEW	3	2			
VOYA		5			
KLIATT	2	3			
HORN BOOK	2	3			
SLJ	1	3			1
WLB	1	2		1	1

Booklist and ALAN Review generally review recommended titles, with a few exceptions mentioned in the editorial review section. Table 13 shows their reviews to be strongly positive. On the other hand, the five reviews randomly selected in Book Report reflect a very positive attitude, even though the reviewers can make purchase recommendations ranging from Highly Recommended to Optional Purchase.

VOYA, SLJ and WLB do not always include recommended books. As Table 13 shows, VOYA and SLJ reviewer attitudes have a wider range, with some books receiving completely negative reviews. It is very possible that some neutral or negative reviews escaped this small random sample. However, this sample does support the fact that even though most reviews are positive some journals do include negative reviews.

SUMMARY

Choosing the Right Journals

Reviews of materials for young adults continue to be significant for school and public librarians in the selection of materials for this unique age group. This research was designed to help YA librarians use the reviewing tools to

make more efficient and effective choices in collection development. If a YA librarian can only subscribe to a limited number of review journals, due to budget restraints, and has limited time to examine the profusion of reviews that are published, which journals examined in this study would serve the selector best?

This study identified eight review journals which include reviews of YA books and identified what constitutes a YA review, including those reviews which may not be labeled YA, but which clearly review books appropriate for adolescents. The journals surveyed include Booklist, School Library Journal, Horn Book Magazine, and Wilson Library Bulletin, as well as four YA focus journals, KLIATT Young Adult Paperback Book Guide, Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), Book Report and ALAN Review. Data was gathered concerning editorial review policies, frequency and cost, unique features, scope, coverage, currency, duplication of reviews across the journals, evaluative content, length of reviews, and reviewer attitude.

Booklist and SLJ provide the broadest scope and coverage of the eight journals. During 1992, Booklist published 2724 reviews of 1828 titles, representing 29% of the titles reviewed. SLJ reviewed the second highest number

of titles, and contributed 22% of the YA reviews for the year. However, there is a good amount of overlap in the coverage between Booklist and SLJ. When 58 award winning YA books were traced in Book Review Index, 47 of them were reviewed in both journals.

The YA librarian looking for the most current reviews, however, should turn to Booklist. Booklist attempts to review all new and recommended titles, some even before publication. When titles from ALA's "Best Books for Young Adults - 1993" were traced, 67% of the first reviews appeared in Booklist, with SLJ contributing just 26% of the first reviews.

The YA librarian deciding between Booklist and SLJ, should also consider cost, the amount of analysis in the reviews, and the unique features of each journal. SLJ is the most expensive reviewing tool, costing $63.00 for 12 issues, while 22 issues of Booklist can be had for $60.00 a year. The selector will find somewhat more evaluative comments in SLJ. It's reviews were shortest in length, but on the average, 50% of each review was descriptive and 50% was evaluative. By comparison, in Booklist, 57% of the review was descriptive and 43% was evaluative. Evaluative comments include, among other aspects, comparisons of the book with

other works by the author, or in the same genre, as well as predictions of popularity or potentially controversial elements which are helpful to the selector. SLJ also suggests to the selector what not to buy, by including both positive and negative book reviews, while Booklist only includes recommended titles. Both journals include starred reviews for books of outstanding quality, and a valuable index in each issue. All in all, Booklist and SLJ provide broad coverage and currency and share some of the same unique features. For adequate coverage of young adult literature, the selector should subscribe to, at least, one of these two. The choice will depend upon whether the YA librarian has time to keep up with Booklist's 22 annual issues for the most current reviews, whether he/she prefers to only spend time reading recommended reviews, or the importance he/she places on evaluative information.

In contrast to the comprehensiveness of Booklist and SLJ, Wilson Library Bulletin and Horn Book Magazine offer a small number of reviews for the selector of YA books. Each journal contributed only 2% of the total number of YA reviews (6,405) published during 1992. Although neither journal rated high on currency, Horn Book is more current than WLB and did review 23 of the 55 titles examined on ALA's "Best

Books for Young Adults" 1993 list. WLB reviewed only 8 of the award-winning books during 1992. Nonetheless, WLB's reviews were the most evaluative of all journals surveyed and offer the YA librarian strong analytical comments to aid in selection. WLB prefers to publish reviews of titles which are not covered broadly in the other review media. As a result, the selector may not find strong coverage of popular or acclaimed YA titles, such as the award-winners mentioned above. Horn Book only includes recommended titles, while WLB will include negative reviews. WLB had the broadest range of reviewer attitudes of all eight journals, from positive to negative, on the Reviewer Attitude table indicating inclusion of both favorable and unfavorable reviews.

The YA librarian must consider the high cost of subscriptions for these two journals. Horn Book is $38.00 a year for 6 issues which include 131 YA reviews, while for a $50.00 annual fee and 10 issues, WLB publishes only 149 reviews for young adults. According to this study, these two reviewing tools have the least to offer.

The four YA focus journals, KLIATT, VOYA, Book Report, and ALAN Review, offer a variety of unique features and coverage which would make them useful additions to one of the

major, more comprehensive journals, SLJ or Booklist.

KLIATT, of course, is a valuable source for developing a YA paperback collection or keeping an existing one up-to-date. It provides broad coverage of YA books, particularly nonfiction, as they become available in paperback format. The reviews offer strong analytical comments by librarians and teachers working in the field with young adults. For $36.00 for six issues, KLIATT published 1,263 reviews of recommended paperback titles.

At about the same cost ($32.50 for 6 issues), VOYA also offers a high level of evaluative information in its reviews. VOYA's evaluation codes, which rate literary quality, potential popularity, as well as grade level interest for teens, are valuable selection aids. Of the four focus journals, VOYA offers the most current reviews, and the longest reviews of all the journals in this study. There is also a good deal of overlap in coverage with Booklist and SLJ as indicated on the Multiple Reviews table. If more than one review is needed to comply with district collection development policies, VOYA, with it's strong evaluative reviews, would pair up well with Booklist or SLJ.

The newest YA focus journal, Book Report, offered 569 YA reviews in 1992, written primarily by practicing school

librarians. Data in this research indicate that the analytical commentary in Book Report is equal to that found in VOYA. Reviewers clearly indicate their recommendations for each book on a scale from Highly Recommended to Optional Purchase. Of particular importance is the generous use of photographs of book jackets which accompany many reviews and which are so important in promoting books to discriminating teens. Book Report's editorial guidelines encourage reviewers to note material which may warrant pre-examination and caution reviewers not to ignore potentially controversial content. Book Report is not as current as VOYA in its reviewing, nor does it offer as many reviews of books in paperback format as VOYA, but its unique features make it a journal to consider for $39.00 for 5 issues.

ALAN Review is a good source for a small number of primarily fiction titles reviewed by experts in English, reading and other areas of education. This attractive journal includes handy "Clip and File" (3" x 5") reviews on sturdy paper stock. If currency is not of primary concern, ALAN Review, at $15.00 a year for 3 issues, would be a good additional source for the library, or perhaps, if the budget will not allow two subscriptions, to share with the English teachers.

CONCLUSIONS

Status of the YA Book Review Media

Booklist and SLJ provide the most comprehensive coverage of young adult literature reviews. However, the YA focus journals also contribute unique and valuable coverage for this field and should not be overlooked in the selection process. VOYA and Book Report, in particular, attempt to provide information alerting the selector to potentially controversial elements in the YA literature. KLIATT Young Adult Paperback Book Guide also provides much needed information on paperbacks, many teenagers' format of choice. Overall, this research indicates that 31% of the total reviews represented titles in paperback format, however, of those 2634 paperback reviews, 1010 (37%) were published in KLIATT. If coverage in this format is important to the YA collection, one should strongly consider a subscription to KLIATT.

The lack of frequently published editorial policy statements remains the status quo, with only two journals in this study making their policies available in their journals. Booklist last published its review policy in 1988, while, SLJ publishes an annual statement. Evaluation of a particular

journal is problematic when one does not know how the books are selected, who reviews the books, whether only recommended titles are included and other important reviewer guidelines.

This research did indicate significant overlap or duplication of reviews across the journals. The YA librarian having access to at least one major review tool, either Booklist or SLJ, along with VOYA or Book Report, should have access to multiple reviews if they are needed to comply with collection development policies.

Future Research

In addition to providing practical guidance to the practitioner, the replication of research models and methodology will also add to the growing body of knowledge about reviews and reviewing journal in library and information science. The Classification of Fiction and Nonfiction checklists used for this study are well designed and could add valuable knowledge for the field through replication. The feasibility of this study did not allow for large samples to be analyzed for the classification of reviews. However, future research might include larger samples of YA reviews to provide a higher level of validity.

The criteria for selection of journals to include in

this study, excluded two titles which include reviews of young adult books and which may warrant future research, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, and The New York Times Book Review.

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APPENDIX A

PERIODICALS RANKED BY CIRCULATION

Journal	Circ.	No. of YA Reviews
SLJ	42,000	433 YA - yr.
Booklist	38,000	1700 YA - yr.
Horn Book Magazine	24,000	75 YA - yr.
Book Report	11,000	700 YA - yr.
Emergency Librarian	10,000	25 YA - yr.
Wilson Library Bulletin	13,000	100 YA - yr.
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books	8,000	250 YA - yr.
Kirkus	5,000	450 YA - yr.
VOYA	4,000	1500 YA - yr.
ALAN Review	3,000	NA
Kliatt YA Paperback Guide	2,300	1400 YA - yr.

APPENDIX B

PERIODICALS RANKED BY NUMBER OF YA REVIEWS

Journal	No. of YA Reviews	Circ.
Booklist	1,700	32,000
VOYA	1,500	4,000
Kliatt YA Paperback Guide	1,400	2,300
Book Report	700	11,500
Kirkus Review	450	5,000
School Library Journal	433	42,000
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books	250	8,000
Wilson Library Bulletin	100	13,000
Horn Book Magazine	75 ('91)	24,000
Emergency Librarian	25	10,000
ALAN Review	NA	3,000

APPENDIX C

ALA'S BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS 1993

Armstrong, Jennifer. Steal Away. Orchard, 1992.
Arrick, Fran. What You Don't Know Can Kill You. Bantam, 1992.
Avi. Blue Heron. Bradbury, 1992.
Beattie, Owen. Buried in Ice, The Mystery of a Lost Arctic Expedition. Scholastic, 1992.
Berry, James. Ajeemah and His Son. Harper/Collins, 1992.
Block, Francesca Lia. Cherokee Bat and the Goat Guys. Harper/Collins, 1992.
Bonner, Cindy. Lily: A Love Story. Algonquin, 1992.
Brooks, Bruce. What Hearts. Harper/Collins, 1992.
Brooks, Martha. Two Moons in August. Joy St./Little, 1992.
Bunting, Eve. Jumping the Nail. Harcourt, 1991.
Campbell, Eric. The Place of Lions. Harcourt, 1991.
Casely, Judith. My Father, the Nutcase. Knopf, 1992.
Cooney, Caroline B. Flight #116 is Down. Scholastic, 1992.
Cooper, Louise. The Sleep of Stone. Atheneum, 1992.
Cormier, Robert. Tunes for Bears to Dance to. Delacorte, 1992.
Craig, Kit. Gone. Little, Brown, 1992.
Currie, Elliot. Dope and Trouble: Portraits of Delinquent Youth. Pantheon, 1991.
Davis, Terry. If Rock and Roll Were a Machine. Delacorte, 1992.
Dickinson, Peter. AK. Delacorte, 1992.
Doherty, Berlie. Dear Nobody. Orchard, 1992.
Duncan, Lois. Who Killed My Daughter. Delacorte, 1992.
Edelman, Marian Wright. The Measure of Our Success. Beacon Press, 1992.
Ferry, Charles. Binge. Daisy Hill, 1992.
Ford, Michael Thomas. 100 Questions and Answers about Aids. Macmillan, 1992.
Forman, James. Becca's Story. Scribner, 1992.
Freedman, Russell. An Indian Winter. Holiday House, 1992.
Garland, Sherry. Song of the Buffalo Boy. Harcourt, 1992.
Gould, Steven. Jumper. Tor/St. Martin, 1992.
Gravelle, Karen. Teenage Fathers. Messner, 1992.
Gregory, Kristiana. Earthquake at Dawn. Harcourt, 1992.
Grisham, John. The Pelican Brief. Doubleday, 1992.
Gurney, James. Dinotopia. Turner, 1992.
Guy, Rosa. The Music of Summer. Delacorte, 1992.
Hall, Barbara. Fool's Hill. Bantam, 1992.
Haskins, Jim. One More River to Cross: The Stories of Twelve Black Americans. Scholastic, 1992.
Hesse, Karen. Letters from Rifka. Holt, 1992.
Hobbs, Will. The Big Wander. Atheneum, 1992.

APPENDIX C (CON'T)

Hoffman, Alice. Turtle Moon. Putnam, 1992.
Horrigan, Kevin. The Right Kind of Heroes. Algonquin, 1992.
Hotze, Sollace. Acquainted with the Night. Clarion, 1992.
Johnson, Earvin Magic. What You Can Do to Avoid AIDS. Time, 1992.
Jones, Dianna Wynne. Sudden Wild Magic. Morrow, 1992.
Kaye, Geraldine. Someone Else's Baby. Hyperion, 1992.
Kimble, Bo. For You, Hank: The Story of Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble. Delacorte, 1992.
Kincaid, Nancy. Crossing Blood. Putnam, 1992.
Kitteridge, Mary. Teens with AIDS Speak Out. Messner, 1992.
Koertge, Ron. The Harmony Arms. Little, 1992.
Koller, Jackie French. Primrose Way. Harcourt, 1992.
Lackey, Mercedes. Bardic Voices: Book I: The Lark and the Wren. Baen, 1992.
Laidr, Elizabeth. Kiss the Dust. Dutton, 1992.
Lyons, MAry. Letters from a Slave Girl. Scribner, 1992.
McKissack, Patricia. Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman. Scholastic, 1992.
Magorian, Michelle. Not a Swan. Harper/Collins, 1992.
Marlette, Doug. In Your Face: A Cartoonist at Work. Harcourt, 1992.
Meyer, Carolyn. Where the Broken Heart Still Beats. Harcourt, 1992.
Mowry, Jess. Way Past Cool. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992.
Murphy, Jim. The Long Road to Gettysburg. Clarion, 1992.
Myers, Walter Dean. The Righteous Revenge of Artemis Bonner. Harper/Collins, 1992.
Myers, Walter Dean. Somewhere in the Darkness. Scholastic, 1992.
Nelson, Theresa. The Beggar's Ride. Orchard, 1992.
Parks, Rosa. Rosa Parks: My Story. Dial, 1992.
PAULSEN, GARY. HAYMEADOW. DELACORTE, 1992.
Pfeffer, Susan Beth. Family of Strangers. Bantam, 1992.
Powell, Randy. Is Kissing a Girl Who Smokes Like Licking an Ashtray? Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992.
Pullman, Philip. Broken Bridge. Knopf. 1992.
Reaver, Chap. A Little Bit Dead. Delacorte, 1992.
Reidelbach, Maria. Completely Mad: A History of the Comic Book and Magazine. Little, Brown, 1992.
Reiss, Kathryn. Time Window. Harcourt, 1991.
Rice, Robert. The Last Pendragon. Walker, 1991.
Rinaldi, Ann. A Break with Charity. Harcourt, 1992.
Robertson, James. Civil War! America Becomes One Nation. Knopf, 1992.
Rylant, Cynthia. Missing May. Orchard, 1992.
Salisbury, Graham. Blue Skin of the Sea. Delacorte, 1992.
Scieszka, Jon. The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly STupid Tales. Viking, 1992.

APPENDIX C (CON'T)

Sherman, Josepha. Child of Faerie, Child of Earth. Walker, 1992.
Simon, Neil. Lost in Yonkers. Random House, 1991.
Steffan, Jospeh. Honor Bound. Willard, 1992.
Steverman, Caroline. River Rats. Harcourt, 1992.
Stoehr, Shelley. Crosses. Delacorte, 1992.
Taylor, Clark. The House that Crack Built. Chronicle Books, 1992.
Thesman, Jean. When the Road Ends. Houghton, 1992.
Uchida, Yoshiko. The Invisible Thread. Messner, 1991.
Ure, Jean. Plague. Harourt, 1991.
Westall, Robert. Stormsearch. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992.
Westall, Robert. Yaxley's Cat. Scholastic, 1992.
White, Ruth. Weeping Willow. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992.
Wieler, Diana. Bad Boy. Belacorte, 1992.
Williams, Michael. Crocodile Burning. Lodestar, 1992.
Wilson, Budge. Leaving and Other Stories. Philomel, 1992.
Winton, Tim. Lockie Leonard: Human Torpedo. Joy Street/ Little Brown, 1992.
Woodson, Jacqueline. Maizon at Blue Hill. Delacorte, 1992.
Wrede, Patricia. Searching for Dragons. Harcourt, 1991.
Yolen, Jane. Briar Rose. Tor, 1992.
Zambreno, Mary Frances. A Plague of Sorcerers. Harcourt, 1991.
Zindel, Paul. The Pigman and Me. Harper/Collins, 1992.

APPENDIX D

Classification of Book Reviews: Fiction *

Title of book:_____ Author:_____

Review citation:_____ Number of words:_____

Reviewer:_____ Attitude toward the book: + 1 2 3 4 5 -

Descriptive: 1_____ Analytical: 2_____ Sociological: 3_____

Fictional form:

Type of story (fantasy, realistic, historical, etc.) given 1.___

Literary elements:

Characterization:

General description of character(s) given 1.___
Strengths, weaknesses, growth, etc. mentioned 2.___
Mention made of particular groups (ethnic, sexual, age, etc.) 3.___

Plot:

Basic story line clearly outlined 1.___
Subplots mentioned 1.___
Assessment of believability indicated 2.___
Controversial aspects indicated 3.___

Setting:

Physical description given 1.___
Effectiveness of setting/period stated 2.___
Distinguishable ethnic characteristics noted 3.___

Theme:

General theme stated 1.___
Author's purpose in writing story evident 2.___
Sense of values/attitudes reflected in the book indicated 3.___

Style:

Point of view given or implied 1.___
Sentence structure, figurative speech, etc. mentioned 1.___
General tone (didactic, respectful of intended reader, etc.) referred to 2.___
Unique aspect of author's style mentioned 2.___
Use of non-standard English noted 3.___
Aspects of style or language that could be controversial mentioned 3.___

Other considerations:

Age or reading levels suggested 1.___
Publisher, date, pagination given 1.___
Some aspect(s) of format mentioned (cover, size, etc.) 1.___
Relation to other books by the author mentioned 2.___
Relation to other books in the same genre mentioned 2.___
Contribution to the field of YA literature noted 2.___
Mentioned as part of a series 2.___
Potential readership of book suggested 2.___
Use of illustrations mentioned 2.___
Prediction of popularity, appeal to YA readers stated 3.___

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APPENDIX E

Classification of Book Reviews: Non-fiction *

Title of book:_____ Author:_____

Review citation:_____ Number of words:_____

Reviewer:_____ Attitude toward the book: + 1 2 3 4 5 -

Descriptive: 1_____ Analytical: 2_____ Sociological: 3_____

Authority:

- Value as part of a series — 2.___
- Author's credentials mentioned — 2.___

Content:

- Subject clearly identified — 1.___
- Author's purpose stated — 1.___
- Fulfillment of book's aim stated — 2.___
- Scope of book's contents indicated — 2.___
- Aspects which may cause controversy identified — 3.___
- Particular aspects of a group (ethnic, racial, sexual, etc.) identified — 3.___

Treatment:

- Point of view stated or implied — 1.___
- Fictionalized aspects noted — 1.___
- Visible biases pointed out — 2.___
- Obvious gaps indicated — 2.___
- Relation to other books by the same author mentioned — 2.___
- Relation to other books on the same subject mentioned — 2.___
- General contribution to the subject mentioned — 2.___

Physical characteristics:

- Index, glossary, bibliography, etc. noted — 1.___
- Some aspect of format mentioned — 1.___
- Type-face, captions, etc. mentioned — 1.___
- Ease of access indicated — 2.___
- Suitability of illustrations referred to — 2.___

Other considerations:

- Publisher, date, pagination, etc. — 1.___
- Age or grade levels of intended audience suggested — 1.___
- Suitability of presentation for intended audience stated — 2.___
- Probable use of material suggested — 3.___
- Prediction of popularity stated — 3.___

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APPENDIX F

The Classification of Book Reviews: Fiction checklist (Appendix D) was used to determine the number of review statements that were primarily descriptive, analytical, or sociological. Each statement or sentence including the imprint information or other indicators of appropriate age or reading level included in the review was examined. When a statement included information listed on the checklist, a check was made next to that category. There could be more than one statement checked by any category depending on the content of the review. The total number of statements in each of the categories was then computed and the percentage distributions calculated as shown in Table 11. Below is a sample review and the corresponding analysis on the Classification checklist form.

WRIGHT, T. M. *Little Boy Lost.* 247p. Tom Doherty Associates. 1992. Tr $18.95. ISBN 0-312-93172-7. LC 92-824.

YA—An intriguing book about the sudden disappearance of six-year-old Aaron Gale. While riding with his older brother, C. J., and their father, Miles, the child simply vanishes from the vehicle. This alone is odd enough, but the 8-year-old murder of Miles's first wife remains unsolved; his second wife, Marie, disappeared just 18 months before Aaron and has not been heard of since. Coupled with such suspicious events are C. J.'s photographic memory and his father's work as an archaeologist. Some of the characters are introduced only superficially, yet this weakness is slight in contrast to the spellbinding plot. The book could enhance the curiculum in several areas—mysticism, Native Americans, parapsychology—in addition to being an enjoyable piece of fiction.—*Diane Goheen, Topeka West High School Library, KS*

School Library Journal
December, 1992, p. 150

Classification of Book Reviews: Fiction

Title of book: Little Boy Lost Author: T.M Wright

Review citation: SLJ, Dec. '92 p. 150 Number of words: 118

Reviewer: Diane Nelson Attitude toward the book: + 1 (2) 3 4 5 -

Descriptive: 1 7 Analytical: 2 2 Sociological: 3 1

Fictional form:

Type of story (fantasy, realistic, historical, etc.) given	1.__		

Literary elements:

Characterization:

General description of character(s) given	1.1		
Strengths, weaknesses, growth, etc. mentioned		2.1	
Mention made of particular groups (ethnic, sexual, age, etc.)			3.__

Plot:

Basic story line clearly outlined	1.11		
Subplots mentioned	1.11		
Assessment of believability indicated		2.__	
Controversial aspects indicated			3.__

Setting:

Physical description given	1.__		
Effectiveness of setting/period stated		2.__	
Distinguishable ethnic characteristics noted			3.__

Theme:

General theme stated	1.__		
Author's purpose in writing story evident		2.__	
Sense of values/attitudes reflected in the book indicated			3.__

Style:

Point of view given or implied	1.__		
Sentence structure, figurative speech, etc. mentioned	1.__		
General tone (didactic, respectful of intended reader, etc.) referred to		2.__	
Unique aspect of author's style mentioned		2.__	
Use of non-standard English noted			3.__
Aspects of style or language that could be controversial mentioned			3.__

Other considerations:

Age or reading levels suggested	1.1		
Publisher, date, pagination given	1.1		
Some aspect(s) of format mentioned (cover, size, etc.)	1.__		
Relation to other books by the author mentioned		2.__	
Relation to other books in the same genre mentioned		2.__	
Contribution to the field of YA literature noted		2.__	
Mentioned as part of a series		2.__	
Potential readership of book suggested		2.1	
Use of illustrations mentioned		2.__	
Prediction of popularity, appeal to YA readers stated			3.1

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THE YOUNG ADULT BOOK REVIEW MEDIA: AN EVALUATION

ABSTRACT

Young adult librarians must determine which review journals best serve their selection needs. This study examines eight reviewing tools which include reviews for young adult books; Booklist, School Library Journal, Horn Book Magazine, Wilson Library Bulletin, Voice of Youth Advocates, Book Report, Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Book Guide, and ALAN Review, to determine scope, coverage, analysis of content, and reviewing policies.

The total population of YA reviews during 1992 were examined. For comparative analysis, data gathered included the total number of fiction and nonfiction titles, format (paperback or hardcover), and frequency and cost. A small purposive sample was used to determine the degree of duplication across the journals, and to determine in which journal the first review of a given title appeared. A nonproportional stratified random sample was utilized to characterize the reviews in each journal by the amount of descriptive and evaluative content in each review. The editorial review policies of each journal were examined to determine who does the reviews, how books are selected for review, and who the primary audience is for the journal.